Train Accidents

452. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report published in Statesman dated 24th October, 1997 under the caption "Slips in the system";

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent facts mentioned therein have been responsible for recent rail accidents;

(c) what have been the findings of inquiry Committees/Departmental inquiries on recent train accidents;

(d) whether any responsibilities have been fixed on officials for lapses causing train accidents and action taken against them; and

(e) if so, what arc these and if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report, *inter-alia,* has referred to the 19th report of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'Safety Measures and Maintenance of Assets in Indian Railways'. Constant attention is being focused on maintenance of the assets with a view to prevention of accidents. Casualitics in train accidents arc essentially fortuitous and not susceptible to comparison and, therefore, not a reliable safety indicator. On the other hand, incidence of train accidents per million train kilometers is the true index of safety performance. As acknowledged in the Press report, this has shown progressive decline.

(c) to (c) The Enquiry Committees have found failure of Railway Staff as the cause in number of accidents. As per available information, 100 persons were awarded major penalties including dismissal/removal from service/ compulsory retirement and 188 persons were awarded minor penalties during the period 01.04.1997 to 30.09.1997.

Number of suburban passengers

453. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of suburban passnegers travelled in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the period in 1995-96 and 1996-97, metro-wise;

(b) the number of EMU trains on suburban section of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai separately;

(c) the ratio of passengers and EMU Trains in each suburban section of the above metropolitlan cities; and

(d) the net earnings from each suburban section?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Total number of suburban passengers travelled in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai in 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:

Number of passengers originating

(In millions)

	1995-96	1996-97
Delhi	2	2
Mumbai	1813	1892
Calcutta	470	476
Chennai	199	208

Delhi has not been formally declared as suburban'. The figures of subrban-like passengers traffic in and around Delhi have, however, been shown against Delhi.

(b) Average number of EMU trains run daily:

Delhi	22
Mumbai	2035
Calcutta	863
Chennia	553

(c) Average number of passengers per EMU train:

Delhi	278
Mumbai	2547